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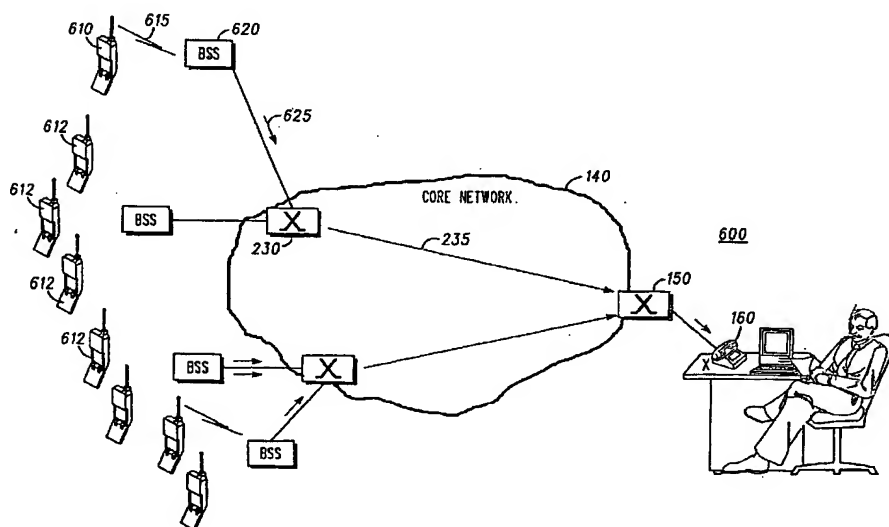
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATION UNIT, COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REDUCING NETWORK CONGESTION THEREIN



(57) Abstract: A wireless communication system (500) provides a number of communication resources for a plurality of mobile stations (512-516). The wireless communication system employs a call gapping process and comprises a number of communication paths for routing a communication initiated by one of the plurality of mobile stations (512-516) to a destination node. One or more of the plurality of mobile stations (512-516) is configured to perform the call gapping process. A communication unit and a method of congestion relief are also provided. The proposed technique provides congestion relief using call gapping, extended to use by a wireless subscriber unit to minimise air-interface traffic in a wireless communication environment. In this manner, calls are prevented from being initiated when they would have ultimately resulted in an unconnected call.

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